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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/657,942

Applicant(s)

MARTIN ET AL.

Examiner

MELODY MEHRPOUR

Art Unit

2617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 March 2011.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-45 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB-08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/2/11
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 was filed in this application after a decision by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, but before the filing of a Notice of Appeal to the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit or the commencement of a civil action. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the appeal has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114 and prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 03/02/11 has been entered.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) filed references listed in the information Disclosure submitted on 03/02/11 has been considered by the examiner (see attached PTO-1449).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. **Claims 1-45**, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eichert et al (US Patent 6,393,474), in view of Forslow (US Patent application 2002/0069278) in view of Thompson (US Publication 2002/0022483 A1).

Consider claim 1, 28, 33, Eichert et al. discloses a method for hardware acceleration in a wired local area network, the method comprising:

creating at least one policy to be distributed among at least one of a plurality of access point groups (the system administrator inputs instructions representing policy - Figure 3 -: Column 3, Lines 42-57; Column 7, Lines 1-7; Column 8, Lines 31-42; Abstract; associating said at least one policy with only a particular one of said access point

groups (policy is distributed to the different groups of network devices and end systems - Figures 1 and 3 - Column 4, Lines 1-18; Column 8, Lines 31-42 & 56-63); and
distributing said associated at least one policy to at least one access point in said particular one of the access point groups (policy is distributed to the network devices and end systems - Figures 1 and 3 - Column 4, Lines 1-18; Column 8, Lines 31-42 & 56-63; Column 9, Lines 11-26).

However, Eichert et al. discloses that this administration of a network occurs in a wired network such as a LAN or WAN, and fails to disclose that this happens in a hybrid wired/wireless network such as a WLAN.

In related prior art, Forslow discloses a centralized administration of policies to one or more routers which act as access points to wireless users (*Abstract; Page 4, Paragraph 0066; Page 5, Paragraph 0088; Column 6, Lines 0091 & 0097- Figures 1-2*).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Forslow with those of Eichert et al. because it is desirable to implement a policy management system that can be dynamically controlled in a wireless network, due to their wide popularity and the ever increasing mobility of society.

Eichert modified by Forslow does not specifically mention that the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points. However, Thompson teaches the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points (0041, 0051, 0116, 0120). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at

the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Thompson with Forslow with those of Eichert et al. modified by Forslow, in order to enable a network infrastructure to support multiple Wireless Service Providers (WSP) and their customers and allow a plurality of WSP's to utilize a common set of access points to provide service to a potentially overlapping set of customers.

Consider claim 10, Eichert et al. discloses a machine-readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having at least one code section for hardware acceleration in a wired local area network, the at least one code section executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps comprising:

creating at least one policy to be distributed among at least one of a plurality of access point groups *(the system administrator inputs instructions representing policy - Figure 3 - Column 3, Lines 42-57; Column 7, Lines 1-7; Column 8, Lines 31-42; Abstract);*

associating said at least one policy with a particular one of said access point groups (policy is distributed to the different groups of network devices and end systems - Figures 1 and 3 - Column 4, Lines 1-18; Column 8, Lines 31-42 & 56-63); and

distributing said associated at least one policy to at least one access point in said plurality of access point groups (policy is distributed to the network devices and end systems - Figures 1 and 3 - Column 4, Lines 1-18; Column 8, Lines 31-42 & 56-63; Column 9, Lines 11-26).

However, Eichert et al. discloses that this administration of a network occurs in a wired network such as a LAN or WAN, and fails to disclose that this happens in a hybrid wired/wireless network such as a WLAN.

In related prior art, Forslow discloses a centralized administration of policies to one or more routers which act as access points to wireless users (*Abstract; Page 4, Paragraph 0066; Page 5, Paragraph 0088; Column 6, Lines 0091& 0097- Figures 1-2*).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Forslow with those of Eichert et al. because it is desirable to implement a policy management system that can be dynamically controlled in a wireless network, due to their wide popularity and the ever increasing mobility of society. Eichert modified by Forslow does not specifically mention that the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points.

However, Thompson teaches the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points (0041, 0051, 0116, 0120). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Thompson with Forslow with those of Eichert et al. modified by Forslow, in order to enable a network infrastructure to support multiple Wireless Service Providers (WSP) and their customers and allow a plurality of WSP's to utilize a common set of access points to provide service to a potentially overlapping set of customers.

Consider claims 19, 40, Eichert et al. discloses a system for hardware acceleration in a wired local area network, the method comprising:

means for creating at least one policy to be distributed among at least one of a plurality of access point groups (*the system administrator inputs instructions representing policy - Figure 3 -- Column 3, Lines 42-57; Column 7, Lines 1-7; Column 8, Lines 31-42; Abstract*);

means for associating said at least one policy with a particular one of said access point groups (policy. is distributed to the different groups of network devices and end systems -- Figures 1 and 3 - Column 4, Lines 1-18; Column 8, Lines 31-42 & 56-63); and

means for distributing said associated at least one policy to at least one access point in said plurality of access point groups (*policy is distributed to the network devices and end systems - Figures 1 and 3 - Column 4, Lines 1-18; Column 8, Lines 31-42 & 56-63," Column 9, Lines 11-26*).

However, Eichert et al. discloses that this administration of a network occurs in a wired network such as a LAN or WAN, and fails to disclose that this happens in a hybrid wired/wireless network such as a WLAN.

In related prior art, Forslow discloses a centralized administration of policies to one or more routers which act as access points to wireless users (*Abstract," Page 4, Paragraph 0066," Page 5, Paragraph 0088; Column 6, Lines 0091& 0097-Figures 1-2*).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Forslow with those of Eichert et al. because it is desirable to implement a policy management system that can be dynamically controlled in a wireless network, due to their wide popularity and the ever increasing mobility of society. Eichert modified by Forslow does not specifically mention that the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points. However, Thompson teaches the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points (0041, 0051, 0116, 0120). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Thompson with Forslow with those of Eichert et al. modified by Forslow, in order to enable a network infrastructure to support multiple Wireless Service Providers (WSP) and their customers and allow a plurality of WSP's to utilize a common set of access points to provide service to a potentially overlapping set of customers.

Consider claims 2, 35, 41, Eichert et al. as modified by Forslow further discloses identifying said associated policy to be distributed to said particular one of said access point groups (*Eichert et al. - Column 2, Lines 6-27; Column 7, Lines 1-6 & 48-56*).

Eichert modified by Forslow does not specifically mention that the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points. However, Thompson teaches the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points (0041, 0051, 0116, 0120). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Thompson with Forslow

with those of Eichert et al. modified by Forslow, in order to enable a network infrastructure to support multiple Wireless Service Providers (WSP) and their customers and allow a plurality of WSP's to utilize a common set of access points to provide service to a potentially overlapping set of customers.

Consider claims 3, 36, 42, Eichert et al. as modified by Forslow further discloses conditioning said selection of said identified policy upon occurrence of an event (Eichert et al. - Column 4, Lines 1-19; Column 7, Lines 48-56).

Consider claims 4, 37, 43, Eichert et al. as modified by Forslow further discloses distributing said identified policy to said particular one of said access point groups upon said occurrence of said event (*Eichert et al. - Column 4, Lines 1-19; Column 7, Lines 48-56; Column 8, Lines 31-42; Column 9, Lines 1-10*). Eichert modified by Forslow does not specifically mention that the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points. However, Thompson teaches the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points (0041, 0051, 0116, 0120). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Thompson with Forslow with those of Eichert et al. modified by Forslow, in order to enable a network infrastructure to support multiple Wireless Service Providers (WSP) and their customers and allow a plurality of WSP's to utilize a common set of access points to provide service to a potentially overlapping set of

customers. Eichert modified by Forslow does not specifically mention that the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points. However, Thompson teaches the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points (0041, 0051, 0116, 0120). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Thompson with Forslow with those of Eichert et al. modified by Forslow, in order to enable a network infrastructure to support multiple Wireless Service Providers (WSP) and their customers and allow a plurality of WSP's to utilize a common set of access points to provide service to a potentially overlapping set of customers.

Consider claims 5, 38, Eichert et al. as modified by Forslow further discloses associating said at least one policy with a particular access point in said particular one of said access point groups (*Eichert et al. - Column 4, Lines 1-19; Column 7, Lines 48-56; Column 8, Lines 31-42; Column 9, Lines 1-32*). Eichert modified by Forslow does not specifically mention that the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points. However, Thompson teaches the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points (0041, 0051, 0116, 0120). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Thompson with Forslow with those of Eichert et al. modified by Forslow, in order to enable a network infrastructure to support multiple Wireless Service Providers (WSP) and their customers and allow a plurality of WSP's to utilize a

common set of access points to provide service to a potentially overlapping set of customers.

Consider claims 6, 39, Eichert et al. as modified by Forslow further discloses distributing said identified policy to said particular access point in said particular one of said access point groups (*Eichert et al. - Column 4, Lines 1-19; Column 7, Lines 48-56; Column 8, Lines 31-42; Column 9, Lines 1-32*). Eichert modified by Forslow does not specifically mention that the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points. However, Thompson teaches the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points (0041, 0051, 0116, 0120). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Thompson with Forslow with those of Eichert et al. modified by Forslow, in order to enable a network infrastructure to support multiple Wireless Service Providers (WSP) and their customers and allow a plurality of WSP's to utilize a common set of access points to provide service to a potentially overlapping set of customers.

Consider claims 7, 44, as applied to claim 1 above, Eichert et al. as modified by Forslow further discloses communicating said at least one policy from at least one of a switch and a server to at least one access point in said plurality of access point groups (*Eichert et al. - Column 4, Lines 1-19; Column 7, Lines 48-56; Column 8, Lines 31-42; Column 9, Lines 1-32*). Eichert modified by Forslow does not specifically mention that the policy

distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points. However, Thompson teaches the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points (0041, 0051, 0116, 0120). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Thompson with Forslow with those of Eichert et al. modified by Forslow, in order to enable a network infrastructure to support multiple Wireless Service Providers (WSP) and their customers and allow a plurality of WSP's to utilize a common set of access points to provide service to a potentially overlapping set of customers.

Consider claims 8, 45, Eichert et al.. as modified by Forslow further discloses broadcasting said at least one policy from said at least one of a switch and to the at least a portion of the plurality of access points (Eichert et al. –Column 4 *lines 1-19*; Column 7, *Lines 48-56*; Column 8, *Lines 31-42*; Column 9, *Lines 1-32 :: Forslow . Page 3, Paragraph 0034*; Page 4, *paragraph 0066*; Page 5, *Paragraph 0088*; page 6, *paragraph 0095*). Eichert modified by Forslow does not specifically mention that the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points. However, Thompson teaches the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points (0041, 0051, 0116, 0120). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Thompson with Forslow with those of Eichert et al. modified by Forslow, in order to enable a network infrastructure to support multiple Wireless Service Providers (WSP)

and their customers and allow a plurality of WSP's to utilize a common set of access points to provide service to a potentially overlapping set of customers.

Consider claims 9, 27, Eichert et al. as modified by Forslow further discloses distributing said at least one policy via at least one messaging protocol message (*Eichert et al. - Column 4, Lines 1-19; Column 7, Lines 48-56; Column 8, Lines 31-42; Column 9, Lines 1-32 :: Forslow- Page 3, Paragraph 0034; Page 4, paragraph 0066; Page 5, Paragraph 0088; page 6, paragraph 0095*).

Consider claim 11, as applied to claim 10 above, Eichert et al. as modified by Forslow further discloses code for identifying said associated policy to be distributed to said particular one of said access point groups (*Eichert et al. - Column 2, Lines 6-27; Column 7, Lines 1-6 & 48-56*). Eichert modified by Forslow does not specifically mention that the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points. However, Thompson teaches the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points (0041, 0051, 0116, 0120). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Thompson with Forslow with those of Eichert et al. modified by Forslow, in order to enable a network infrastructure to support multiple Wireless Service Providers (WSP) and their customers and allow a plurality of WSP's to utilize a common set of access points to provide service to a potentially overlapping set of customers.

Consider claim 12, as applied to claim 11 above, Eichert et al. as modified by Forslow further discloses code for conditioning said selection of said identified policy upon occurrence of an event (*Eichert et al. - Column 4, Lines 1-19; Column 7, Lines 48-56*).

Consider claim 13, as applied to claim 12 above, Eichert et al. as modified by Forslow further discloses code for distributing said identified policy to said particular one of said access point groups upon said occurrence of said event (*Eichert et al. - Column 4, Lines 1-19; Column 7, Lines 48-56; Column 8, Lines 31-42; Column 9, Lines 1-10*). Eichert modified by Forslow does not specifically mention that the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points. However, Thompson teaches the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points (0041, 0051, 0116, 0120). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Thompson with Forslow with those of Eichert et al. modified by Forslow, in order to enable a network infrastructure to support multiple Wireless Service Providers (WSP) and their customers and allow a plurality of WSP's to utilize a common set of access points to provide service to a potentially overlapping set of customers.

Consider claim 14, as applied to claim 13 above, Eichert et al. as modified by Forslow further discloses code for associating said at least one policy with a particular access

point in said particular one of said access point groups (*Eichert et al.* - Column 4, Lines 1-19; Column 7, Lines 48-56; Column 8, Lines 31-42; Column 9, Lines 1-32). *Eichert* modified by *Forslow* does not specifically mention that the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points. However, *Thompson* teaches the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points (0041, 0051, 0116, 0120). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of *Thompson* with *Forslow* with those of *Eichert et al.* modified by *Forslow*, in order to enable a network infrastructure to support multiple Wireless Service Providers (WSP) and their customers and allow a plurality of WSP's to utilize a common set of access points to provide service to a potentially overlapping set of customers.

Consider claim 15, as applied to claim 14 above, *Eichert et al.* as modified by *Forslow* further discloses code for distributing said identified policy to said particular access point in said particular one of said access point groups (*Eichert et al.* - Column 4, Lines 1-19; Column 7, Lines 48-56; Column 8, Lines 31-42; Column 9, Lines 1-32). *Eichert* modified by *Forslow* does not specifically mention that the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points. However, *Thompson* teaches the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points (0041, 0051, 0116, 0120). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of *Thompson* with *Forslow* with those of *Eichert et al.* modified by *Forslow*, in order to enable a network infrastructure to

support multiple Wireless Service Providers (WSP) and their customers and allow a plurality of WSP's to utilize a common set of access points to provide service to a potentially overlapping set of customers.

Consider claim 16, as applied to claim 10 above, Eichert et al. as modified by Forslow further discloses code for communicating said at least one policy from at least one of a switch and a server to at least one access point in said plurality of access point groups (*Eichert et al. -Column 4, Lines 1-19; Column 7, Lines 48-56; Column 8, Lines 31-42; Column 9, Lines 1-32*). Eichert modified by Forslow does not specifically mention that the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points. However, Thompson teaches the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points (0041, 0051, 0116, 0120). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Thompson with Forslow with those of Eichert et al. modified by Forslow, in order to enable a network infrastructure to support multiple Wireless Service Providers (WSP) and their customers and allow a plurality of WSP's to utilize a common set of access points to provide service to a potentially overlapping set of customers.

Consider claim 17, as applied to claim 16 above, Eichert et al. as modified by Forslow further discloses code for broadcasting said at least one policy from said at least one of a switch and a server to said at least a portion of said plurality of access point groups

(Eichert et al. -Column 4, Lines 1-19; Column 7, Lines 48-56; Column 8, Lines 31-42; Column 9, Lines 1-32 "" Forslow- Page 3, Paragraph 0034; Page 4, paragraph 0066; Page 5, Paragraph 0088; page 6, paragraph 0095). Eichert modified by Forslow does not specifically mention that the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points. However, Thompson teaches the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points (0041, 0051, 0116, 0120). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Thompson with Forslow with those of Eichert et al. modified by Forslow, in order to enable a network infrastructure to support multiple Wireless Service Providers (WSP) and their customers and allow a plurality of WSP's to utilize a common set of access points to provide service to a potentially overlapping set of customers.

Consider claim 18, as applied to claim 17 above, Eichert et al. as modified by Forslow further discloses code for distributing said at least one policy via at least one messaging protocol message *(Eichert et al. - Column 4, Lines 1-19; Column 7, Lines 48-56; Column 8, Lines 31-42; Column 9, Lines 1-32 :: Forslow - Page 3, Paragraph 0034; Page 4, paragraph 0066; Page 5, Paragraph 0088; page 6, paragraph 0095).*

Consider claims 20, 29, Eichert et al. as modified by Forslow further discloses means for identifying said associated policy to be distributed to said particular one of said access point groups (Eichert et al. - Column 2, Lines 6-27;

Column 7, Lines 1-6 & 48-56). Eichert modified by Forslow does not specifically mention that the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points. However, Thompson teaches the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points (0041, 0051, 0116, 0120). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Thompson with Forslow with those of Eichert et al. modified by Forslow, in order to enable a network infrastructure to support multiple Wireless Service Providers (WSP) and their customers and allow a plurality of WSP's to utilize a common set of access points to provide service to a potentially overlapping set of customers.

Consider claims 21, 30, Eichert et al. as modified by Forslow further discloses means for conditioning said selection of said identified policy upon occurrence of an event (*Eichert et al. - Column 4, Lines 1-19; Column 7, Lines 48-56*).

Consider claims 22, 31, Eichert et al. as modified by Forslow further discloses means for distributing said identified policy to said plurality particular one of said access point groups upon said occurrence of said event (*Eichert et al. - Column 4, Lines 1-19; Column 7, Lines 48-56; Column 8, Lines 31-42; Column 9, Lines 1-10*). Eichert modified by Forslow does not specifically mention that the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points. However, Thompson teaches the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the

access points (0041, 0051, 0116, 0120). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Thompson with Forslow with those of Eichert et al. modified by Forslow, in order to enable a network infrastructure to support multiple Wireless Service Providers (WSP) and their customers and allow a plurality of WSP's to utilize a common set of access points to provide service to a potentially overlapping set of customers.

Consider claims 23, 32, Eichert et al. as modified by Forslow further discloses means for associating said at least one policy with a particular access point in said plurality particular one of said access point groups (*Eichert et al. - Column 4, Lines 1-19; Column 7, Lines 48-56; Column 8, Lines 31-42; Column 9, Lines 1-32*). Eichert modified by Forslow does not specifically mention that the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points. However, Thompson teaches the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points (0041, 0051, 0116, 0120). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Thompson with Forslow with those of Eichert et al. modified by Forslow, in order to enable a network infrastructure to support multiple Wireless Service Providers (WSP) and their customers and allow a plurality of WSP's to utilize a common set of access points to provide service to a potentially overlapping set of customers.

Consider claims 24, 33, Eichert et al. as modified by Forslow

further discloses means for distributing said identified policy to said particular access point in said particular one of said access point groups (*Eichert et al. - Column 4, Lines 1-19; Column 7, Lines 48-56; Column 8, Lines 31-42; Column 9, Lines 1-32*). Eichert modified by Forslow does not specifically mention that the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points. However, Thompson teaches the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points (0041, 0051, 0116, 0120). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Thompson with Forslow with those of Eichert et al. modified by Forslow, in order to enable a network infrastructure to support multiple Wireless Service Providers (WSP) and their customers and allow a plurality of WSP's to utilize a common set of access points to provide service to a potentially overlapping set of customers.

Consider claim 25, as applied to claim 19 above, Eichert et al. as modified by Forslow further discloses means for communicating said at least one policy from at least one of a switch and a server to at least one access point in said plurality of access point groups (*Eichert et al. -Column 4, Lines 1-19; Column 7, Lines 48-56; Column 8, Lines 31-42; Column 9, Lines 1-32*). Eichert modified by Forslow does not specifically mention that the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points. However, Thompson teaches the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points (0041, 0051, 0116, 0120). It would have been obvious to a person

having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Thompson with Forslow with those of Eichert et al. modified by Forslow, in order to enable a network infrastructure to support multiple Wireless Service Providers (WSP) and their customers and allow a plurality of WSP's to utilize a common set of access points to provide service to a potentially overlapping set of customers.

Consider claim 26, as applied to claim 25 above, Eichert et al. as modified by Forslow further discloses means for broadcasting said at least one policy from said at least one of a switch and a server to said at least a portion of said plurality of access point groups (*Eichert et al. -Column 4, Lines 1-19; Column 7, Lines 48-56; Column 8, Lines 31-42; Column 9, Lines 1-32 ::Forslow- Page 3, Paragraph 0034; Page 4, paragraph 0066; Page 5, Paragraph 0088; page 6, paragraph 0095*). Consider claim 27, as applied to claim 26 above, Eichert et al. as modified by Forslow further discloses means for distributing said at least one policy via at least one messaging protocol message (*Eichert et al. - Column 4, Lines 1-19; Column 7, Lines 48-56; Column 8, Lines 31-42; Column 9, Lines 1-32 :: Forslow - Page 3, Paragraph 0034; Page 4, paragraph 0066; Page 5, Paragraph 0088; page 6, paragraph 0095*). Eichert modified by Forslow does not specifically mention that the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points. However, Thompson teaches the policy distributed with a particular one of the plurality of the access points (0041, 0051, 0116, 0120). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Thompson with Forslow with those

of Eichert et al. modified by Forslow, in order to enable a network infrastructure to support multiple Wireless Service Providers (WSP) and their customers and allow a plurality of WSP's to utilize a common set of access points to provide service to a potentially overlapping set of customers.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-45, have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. **Any responses to this action should be mailed to:**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MELODY MEHRPOUR whose telephone number is 5(571)272-7913. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dwayne Bost can be reached (571) 272-7023.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Naghmeh Mehrpour/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2617

March 4, 2011